

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. RO999114

REMARKS

This is intended as a Supplemental Response to the Final Office Action dated January 12, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 12, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Background Statement

Applicants desire to move prosecution forward and, thus, hereby submit this Supplemental Response to the Final Office Action dated January 12, 2005. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the arguments.

In view of the responsive amendment filed March 10, 2005 (i.e., within 2 months of the January 12, 2005 Office Action), Applicants respectfully submit that the shortened statutory period to respond to the Office Action should expire on the later of: (i) April 12, 2005 or (ii) the date an advisory action is mailed. MPEP 706.07(f).

Status of the Claims and Arguments

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1-42 remain pending following entry of this response.

Each of the claims stands rejected on the basis of *Anupam et al.* (US 6,535, 912 B1, hereinafter "*Anupam*"), either alone or in combination with one or more other references. Filed herewith is an inventors' declaration submitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.131. It is believed that the declaration removes *Anupam* as a reference and that, therefore, the claims are allowable. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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